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We notice another party in Vancouver who is interested, or about to be, in the beam trawling, in an article in the December issue of "Pacific Fishermen," takes opposite views from those of Gloucester, and calls the beam trawl a modern method, and says it has built up the fisheries of Great Britain, etc. We think he is mistaken in his views, decidedly. This "method" has not built up the fisheries of Great Britain, as it is not used in the herring or mackerel fisheries, or other kinds. Also, this party, when he criticises the views of Gloucester, undoubtedly is not well informed as to Gloucester's methods of fishing, and the localities where it fishes.

If the party would consult the annual statistical report of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, it will correct his erroneous idea that Gloucester catches her fish along the shores in shoal water. As to the fishing in dories, which our Vancouver friend mentions, his is only one of the apparatus our vessels employ on the banks when fishing, and when the men fish by the hand line, it is confined only to a small number of the fishing fleet of New England. The main fishing is done by the set trawl, put out from the dories that leave the vessels, for a short distance only, to set their trawls, then in a few hours after, pull them, securing the fish from them and then bring them and the catch to the vessels waiting for them. This trawling is done in water 40 fathoms to 300 fathoms in depth.

We are informed that the fishing grounds in the North Sea are being depleted by the method of fishing by the beam trawl, and already the matter is being agitated. Whether there should not be some restriction or regulation of this method so as to conserve these grounds for the future, is one of the most weighty matters before the fishing interest of North America today.

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SHOULD AROUSE A PROTEST.

The announcement that the board of health of Lynn is to ask for legislation, at the hands of the incoming General Court, to put an end to the torching of herring in the Saugus and Pines rivers and along the Lynn harbor front, should be enough to arouse the entire bait, vessel and fishing interests of the state to immediate action in an effort to thwart, by all honorable means, such a course, notwithstanding, it is understood to have the endorsement of favorable comment of the state fisheries and game commission.

Of course the cause for seeking such legislation is the thousands of herring and young pollock which crowd upon the shores in question and there die, making a bad stench, besides making some work for the board of health, which it evidently did not relish.

This same state of affairs, it will be remembered, happened at Beverly and Salem and along the Willows shore, the condition becoming so acute that the torchers of herring began to fear for their bodily safety at times.

It was claimed that the torchers were the cause of all the trouble, and they alone were the cause of the thousands of barrels of fish crowding on the shore and dying and consequently answerable for the terrible stench that arose therefrom. It was claimed that they threw over each night, from their catch, hundreds and hundreds of barrels of herring which were not marketable and that these fish drifted ashore and lined the banks until they became an intolerable nuisance.

Notwithstanding this situation the claims made were apparently untenable and the fisheries and game commission was induced to send a special representative down to investigate. If our memory serves us right, his report did not bear out the soundness of the argument, for while he admitted that herring of small size were thrown overboard, he laid stress on the fact of dogfish and other fish chasing the herring schools ashore.

In this latter part of his report, in the opinion of experienced, practical fishermen, he just about hit the mark. Herring thrown over dead from the boats could never have formed more than a very small part of the great banks of fish which were found along the shores. The fishermen felt then that they were unjustly accused and have not yet altered their opinion.

The one principal thing conducive to the successful prosecution of the fisheries is a plentiful, handy and cheap supply of bait. Last year this shore was visited by one of the largest schools of herring for a great many years, and in consequence, the shacklers, haddockers and market boats had no trouble in getting plenty of bait at

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any time. Thus they were enabled to make quick and profitable trips and also, the men of the herring torching boats were put in the way of making a good, honest living.

As long as the fisheries continue, bait must be had. Newfoundland safeguards her bait supply jealousy and at Nova Scotia, our crafts have to pay a tonnage tax before they can secure any. Now here at home, when, for the first time for a long period, a goodly supply is at our very doors and to be had daily, we witness an attempt to abridge the privilege to our own. It savors of the three mile limit of Nova Scotia or the ultimatum of Premier Bond of Newfoundland. It should not be tolerated.

It is pointed out that already torching is prohibited on certain parts of the South shore and that the scope of the bait industry is being steadily driven to the North shore around Gloucester and Newburyport and Ipswich, and the hope is expressed in some quarters that Beverly and Salem will join hands with Lynn in the latter's effort for anti-torching legislation.

The fishing interest in general cannot afford to have its bait catching limits circumscribed, as is intended and hoped for by some, who, instead of blaming natural causes for the onrush of fish which die on the shore, lay the burden on the bait catchers entirely.

It behooves every port of Massachusetts which sends forth a fishing vessel or a fleet of herring torching boats

to see to it that when any petition or bill, such as is proposed by the Lynn board of health, comes up for a hearing, its interests are well represented by men who will put forward such a strong remonstrance, backed up by facts, as will cause a general awakening on the subject and have the effect of having the matter seen in its full and true light. The fishing interest needs all the bait it can get and the scope of the bait catchers should not be circumscribed any more than they are at present.

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Today's Receipts.

Sch. Etta Mildred, Rips, 40,000 lbs. salt cod, 10,000 lbs. fresh cod.
Sch. Raymah, via Boston.
Sch. Vanessa, via Boston.
Sch. Mary B. Greer, shore.
Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, shore.
Sch. Mertis H. Perry, shore.
Sch. Ida M. Silva, shore.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
Sch. Clara G. Silva, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.
Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
Sch. Teresa and Alice, shore.
Sch. Evelyn L. Thompson, shore.
Boats, 100 bbls. fresh herring.

Today's Fish Market.

Ground pollock, 55 cts per cwt.; gutted, 60 cents.
Salt George cod, large \$4.00, mediums, \$3.00.
Bank halibut 11 cts. per lb for white and 8 cts for gray.
Salt pollock, \$1.50; salt haddock, \$1.50.
Eastern salt shack trip cod, \$3.25 per cwt. for large and \$3 for markets.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$1.75; mediums, \$1.37½; Eastern cod, large \$1.75; medium \$1.37½; cusk, \$1.60 to \$1.65; haddock, 80 cts; hake, 75 cts; pollock, 70 cts.
Eastern deck handline cod, \$4.00 for large and \$3.00 for medium.

Boston.

Sch. Leo, 1500 haddock, 600 cod, 4000 hake, 1500 pollock.
Sch. Gossip, 25,000 haddock, 35,000 cod.
Sch. Perseverance, 3000 cod.
Sch. Seaconnet, 500 haddock, 2000 cod, 12,000 hake.
Sch. John M. Keen, 8000 haddock, 3000 cod, 6000 hake.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 6000 haddock, 1500 cod, 3000 hake.
Sch. Mabel Bryson, 12,000 cod.
Sch. Little Fannie, 1200 haddock, 1400 cod.
Sch. Motor, 1000 haddock, 12,000 cod.

Sch. Genesta, 6000 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000 pollock.
Sch. Stranger, 4000 haddock, 1500 cod, 7000 hake.
Sch. Aspinet, 9000 haddock, 8000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Richard J. Nunan, 10,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 4000 hake.
Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, 5000 haddock, 3000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Elizabeth, Silsbee, 30,000 haddock, 22,000 cod, 1000 cusk, 5000 pollock.
Sch. Buema, 5000 haddock, 3500 cod, 500 hake.

Haddock, \$2 to 2.75 per cwt.; shore codfish, \$2 to \$2.25; hake, 60 cts. to \$2.25; cusk, \$1.50; pollock, \$2.25.

PORT OF GLOUCESTER.

Arrived Today.

Sch. Smith Tuttle Boston for Bangor.
Steamer Reliance Boston for Portland.

FISH MORE PLENTIFUL.

Best Prices Are Low Owing to Uncertainty of Market.

The fishing vessels are beginning to get more haddock, but the market is so hard at the low prices offered, but had uncertain that the T wharf, Boston, dealers are not taking all that are brought in, and the price for this season is low. Some of the captains who had live fish yesterday kicked hard at the low prices offered, but had to sell.

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HERRING FLEET NOW FEARS ICE FIELD.

News of the approach of ice in the gulf of St. Lawrence has again been received by the firms owning vessels now operating for herring cargoes in the Bay of Islands. While the ice field is not yet close to the latter place yet it is felt that it is near enough so that its approach must needs be carefully and closely watched in order to prevent the fleet from being caught unawares and frozen in. The skippers of the vessels in the bay are being kept posted daily from here of the movements of the ice field.

One telegram, received yesterday from a port at the Straits of Belle Isle states that the straits are now frozen way across and that the ice is heavy. The dispatch also states that the straits are completely blocked and that the weather is severely cold.

A dispatch yesterday afternoon from Anticosti indicated that thin ice or practically no ice at all was visible off there and that the weather was somewhat mild.

A letter received this morning by the Boston Fish Bureau from its special correspondent at Birchy Cove, Bay of Islands, states that it is very hard to get accurate news from the vessels in the Arms on account of the difficulty in getting from the Arms to Birchy Cove. The weather had been mild and fish not plentiful, and it was the writer's opinion that several vessels might be obliged to sail for home with part cargoes, as they would have to be out clear of the bay before the gulf ice, which was expected almost any time now, came down, or be frozen in and not get out until late next spring. There was nothing encouraging in the letter, which practically confirms other late news received here from Bay of Islands.

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PRICES WAY DOWN.

T Wharf Dealers Not Anxious for Fish Despite Threatening Weather.

Quite a number of the big off shore haddockers hit the Boston market yesterday afternoon and all with fares of a size that ordinarily would mean fine financial returns for all, but with no sale for their cod, hake or cusk and haddock figures way off, no great stocks will result.

Sch. Robert and Arthur, which has been out but a short time, had 50,000 pounds and sch. Thomas S. Gorton, Capt. William H. Thomas, which has been gone only a dog watch, has 55,000 pounds with 1000 pounds of halibut to help out. Sch. John Hays Hammond has 60,000 pounds, sch. Catherine G. Burke the same, sch. Terra Nova 53,000 pounds and sch. Lillian 70,000 pounds. The only boats at the dock are schs. Hope and Mary Edith, each with a good catch.

From \$1.35 for old to \$3.25 for "cocktail" haddock and \$2 and \$2.50 the limit on shore large cod, it cannot be called a booming day at T wharf, the dealers not being anxious for fish, despite the threatening storm.

HERRING FROM THE PROVINCES.

First Importation at Portland Received on Tuesday.

What is said to be the first importation of herring to Portland, from the Provinces was received in that city Tuesday by Lord Bros. on Central wharf from St. John, the consignment consisting of two car loads. The herring are of the superior size and quality styled bloaters and will be used by the importing firm for smoking purposes.

Many claim that bringing herring from the Provinces would indicate that the supply along the Maine coast for some months past is not as large as previous seasons, and this report is borne out by some of the Portland fish dealers. One who has been engaged in the packing of fish for years said that the past season was the worst he ever knew and that whereas in years past his pack would amount to hundreds of barrels the past season he did not handle but about fifty barrels in all.

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MET HEAVY GALE.**Sch. John R. Bradley Arrives
with Frozen Herring.**

While almost summer weather prevailed ashore here yesterday, it was very different a few miles out to sea, for while people were walking Main street and perspiring, sch. John R. Bradley, on the last leg of her homeward journey, from Bay of Islands, N. F., was in the grasp of a heavy gale and her crew were busy pounding ice which rapidly formed on deck and rigging.

The Bradley, Capt. Dominick Arsenault, arrived this forenoon, from Bay of Islands, N. F., with a full cargo of frozen herring, part pan and part natural frost goods. The vessel was heavily iced up having struck cold, blowy weather coming along. She made port under jumbo, foresail and riding sail.

Capt. Arsenault reports leaving Bay of Islands, N. F., the last day of the old year and thus, considering the conditions, has made a good passage.

The worst weather of the whole trip was met off here yesterday when the craft struck zero temperature and a gale so heavy that it was necessary to heave the staunch craft to under a two reefed foresail for several hours.

The crew succeeded in saving the deckload of barrelled salt herring, and when the gale moderated, sail was made and she came along during the night without mishap.

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Squid Plenty on Western Bank.

Capt. John Swim of sch. Etta Mildred reports plenty of squid still on Western bank. The squid are medium sized and Capt. Swim thinks they are just the kind that will stay on the bank all winter.

Halibut Sale.

About 500 pounds of halibut yesterday, from sch. Etta Mildred, brought 14 1-2 and 10 1-2 cents per pound for white and gray.

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TODAY'S RECEIPTS.

Sch. John R. Bradley, Bay of Islands, N. F., 950 lbs frozen herring, 85 bbls. salt herring.

Sch. Elizabeth Silsbee, via Boston.

Sch. Georgianna, shore.

Sch. Minnerva, shore.

Sch. Buema, shore.

Sch. Dorothy, shore.

Sch. Athena, shore.

Sch. Evelyn L. Thompson, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, haddocking.

Sch. Margaret, halibuting.

Today's Fish Market.

Ground pollock, 55 cts per cwt.; gutted, 60 cents.

Salt George cod, large \$4.00, mediums, \$3.00.

Bank halibut 11 cts. per lb for white and 8 cts for gray.

Salt pollock, \$1.50; salt haddock, \$1.50.

Eastern salt shack trip cod, \$3.25 per cwt. for large and \$3 for markets.

Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$1.75; mediums, \$1.37½.

Eastern cod, large \$1.75; medium \$1.37½; cusk, \$1.60 to \$1.65; haddock, 80 cts; hake, 75 cts; pollock, 70 cts.

Eastern deck handline cod, \$4.00 for large and \$3.00 for medium.

Boston.

Sch. Hope, 10,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake, 2000 pollock.

Sch. Robert and Arthur, 16,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 3000 hake, 10,000 pollock.

Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, 36,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 6000 cusk, 1000 halibut.

Sch. John Hays Hammond, 32,000 haddock, 21,000 cod, 4000 hake, 4000 cusk, 500 halibut.

Sch. Morning Star, 55,000 haddock, 11,000 cod.

Sch. Catherine G. Burke, 55,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Terra Nova, 35,000 haddock, 10,000 cod, 8000 hake.

Sch. Lillian, 45,000 haddock, 23,000 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith.

Haddock, \$1.35 to \$3.25 per cwt.; shore large cod, \$2 to \$2.50; short market cod, \$1.50 to \$2; pollock, \$2.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

The Nova Scotia Eva M. B. has arrived at Halifax, N. S., from Jorday Bay, Shelburne, with 450 barrels of herring.

The Nova Scotia sch. Eomynthruide was at Halifax Tuesday with 8000 pounds of fresh cod and haddock.

Sch. Arcadia was at North Sydney, C. B., Wednesday.

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Sch. Atlanta of this port, recently reported at Louisburg, C. B., had 6000 pounds of halibut on board.

Sch. John Hays Hammond was in command of Capt. Christopher Gibbs this trip, her regular skipper, Capt. Horace Wilde remaining ashore because of illness in his family.

Sch. Arcadia, of this port, bound home from Bay of Islands, N. F., with a cargo of salt and frozen herring, put in at North Sydney, C. B., to land her skipper, Capt. Lemuel Firth, who is ill. He will proceed home by train, while the vessel sailed for home in command of her mate, Daniel McPhee.

The straight Georges handline fleet is mostly hauled up this winter. All the Western bank cack handliners hauled up after their second trips, so the only hook and lines now out are schs. Hattie A. Trask, Senator Saulsbury and Cecil H. Low.

Sch. Florence E. Melonson has cleared from Port Gilbert, N. S., for this port, with a general cargo.

Sch. Metamora was at Liverpool, N. S., on Monday and cleared.

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Boston Receipts Light.

Arrivals at T wharf, Boston, are light this morning and the price on haddock is better than for some time, from \$2 to \$3.75 being paid by the dealers. Large cod hang at \$2.50. Yesterday afternoon schs. Richard Benj. F. Phillips and Francis J. O'Hara came in, but this morning schs. Rex and Lucania, both with good trips, had things to themselves.

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TEN DAYS MAY CLOSE SEASON.**Perhaps Earlier With Good Run of
Herring and Good Frost.****Letter From Birchy Cove, N. F.,
Gives Authentic Information.**

A letter to the Times received last night and dated at Birchy Cove, Bay of Islands, N. F., last Sunday, gives some interesting information of the doing of the herring fleet and conditions there and is the first word, beyond a few telegrams, received here from there since before Christmas. The letter is from a most reliable source and says:

"The herring season is nearly over and another ten days may force its end. If things come right, that is a good run of herring and good frost, it may end itself before that time. What will come though is a conjecture that no man, even though he be brought up in the business, can make and feel safe.

"There is a decidedly winterish appearance here at Birchy Cove, indeed over the whole bay. The Humber is frozen over as far as the eye can reach from here. The North and Middle Arms have little or no ice in them; at least such was the report yesterday, since when the weather has not been such as to make ice where the vessels are lying. The Humber always freezes over much earlier than the other Arms on account of the quantity of fresh water emptying into it.

"The latest reports from the north, brought by the steamer Home, is that there is no immediate danger of the gulf ice, provided the wind does not blow from north, north-northeast or northeast. The captain of the Home, with whom I talked on the subject, says that a strong wind from either of the quarters mentioned, would drive the ice south in such quantities as to interfere with navigation in three or four days. Three days ago the Home could not get any farther north than Port Saunders. There have been a great many rumors about the Gulf ice, but this is the first authentic report.

"My reason for not referring to the ice before, in my letters, is on account of the general unreliability of the reports, generally started by persons who have no interest in the herring fishery, but much interested in starting a story which will cause excitement. This report from the captain of the Home can be relied upon in every particular.

"At the present time it is difficult to hear from the Arms. It is only when the Fiona or some of the fishermen who are on their home come down that we hear what is taking place on the fishing ground. We get the departures and news in a general way, however, and can judge rightly here what the conditions are in the Arms.

"What few fish have been caught lately have been taken in the North Arm and according to a number of fishermen, who came down from there

today, to go home—their fishing season ended—there are eight of the American fleet there. Probably all the vessels that could get there, did so.

"The Nova Scotia vessels recently loaded are schs. Earl V. S., Ellen Maxner and Lila D. Young and Sam Shaw's vessel, I do not know her name but come to think of it, she belongs to Newfoundland and has her cargo sold to Halifax parties.

"The railroad may soon be blocked, as the snow is very deep and each day adds a few inches to it."

The following part of the latter was written last Monday:

"Saturday night there was considerable frost. Yesterday and last night the weather was mild and today it is very mild."

This morning the following sensational story appears in one of the Boston papers:

"About 20 boats mostly from Gloucester, are tied up in the ice in Birchy Cove, off the west coast of Newfoundland. It is doubtful if they will be free before March or April.

"The vessels are in Birchy Cove for their annual trip of frozen herring, but the catch has been small and the delay in sailing resulted in the trapping of nearly the whole fleet.

"The loss to the fish industry will be great unless the boats get free, for when the fish are brought here in the spring they will bring but small prices."

It is perhaps needless to state that no credence is placed in the report here, indeed telegrams from Bay of Islands yesterday indicate that there is less ice now there than there has been for some time.

The messages state that on Wednesday evening there was a heavy east southeast wind, accompanied by a regular downpour of rain. Thursday the weather was very mild and there was no ice in the Humber. Fair fishing was reported in Middle Arm and there were no reports from North Arm.

When there is no ice in the Humber, it is safe to say that there is no ice in any of the other Arms.

A dispatch which is giving the owners of vessels now at Bay of Islands some concern is one received last evening from the island of Anticosti, which said:

"Thermometer three degrees above zero. Field ice showing in North Channel."

This means that the big ice pack between the island and the Labrador coast which makes on the latter shore, is now in sight. It is this field of ice, which, when the wind is right, sweeps across the gulf, adding to itself on the way, and blocks the western Newfoundland coast.

Sch. Lottie G. Merchant is on the way home with a part load of salt herring.

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WEATHER WARM.**But Herring Fishing Fair at
Bay of Islands.**

According to latest reports, the Bay of Islands has been having about the same kind of weather that Gloucester has been having. A dispatch from there yesterday afternoon says that for the past 48 hours it had been very mild and on Tuesday a regular summer downpour, such as was had here on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, was experienced.

The dispatch also said that herring fishing was fair, but that frost was sadly lacking. Some few of the crafts were quite well along on their frozen herring cargoes and with one good night's frost, three vessels would about finish up loading. There was no report of any vessels having loaded and sailed lately.

A dispatch this noon from Forteau, Straits of Belle Isle, on the Newfoundland side, says: "Thick fog raising straits. Full calm."

This is taken to mean that the fog may be breaking up the ice somewhat, or that it may refer simply to atmospheric conditions and that there is no change in the ice situation since last report, when the strait was reported blocked.

The report today from East Point, island of Anticosti, says:

"No ice in sight; weather mild."